

## Associative Bilinear Forms in Some Baric Algebras\*

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### ABSTRACT

Let  $(\mathbf{A}, \omega)$  be a  $K$ -algebra,  $\mathbf{e} \in \mathbf{A}$  a nontrivial idempotent,  $K$  an infinite field whose characteristic is different from 2, and  $\mathbf{A} = K\mathbf{e} \oplus U \oplus V$ , where  $U = \{x \in \ker \omega \mid \mathbf{e}x = \frac{1}{2}x\}$ . If  $\mathfrak{B} : \mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{A} \rightarrow K$  is an associative bilinear form, we prove the two following main facts: (1) If  $\mathbf{A}$  is a  $k$ th order Bernstein algebra and  $\mathfrak{B}$  is a nondegenerate form, then  $\mathbf{A}$  is a  $k$ th order quasiconstant algebra and the idempotent is unique. (2) If  $x^3 - (1 + \gamma)\omega(x)x^2 + \gamma\omega(x)^2x = 0$  is the rank equation of  $\mathbf{A}$  and if  $\mathfrak{B}$  is nondegenerate, then  $\mathbf{A}$  is a Jordan algebra. If  $0 \neq \gamma \neq 1$ , then  $\mathfrak{B}$  is degenerate, the symmetry of  $\mathfrak{B}$  only depends on the symmetry of  $\mathfrak{B}|_V$ , and  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_1) = \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e})$  for any idempotent elements  $\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e}_1$  in  $\mathbf{A}$ .

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### 1. PRELIMINARIES

Throughout this paper  $(\mathbf{A}, \omega)$  will be a  $K$ -baric algebra and  $K$  an infinite field whose characteristic is different from two. That means  $\mathbf{A}$  is a commutative nonassociative algebra over  $K$ , and  $\omega : \mathbf{A} \rightarrow K$  a nontrivial algebra homomorphism. Let  $\mathbf{e} \in \mathbf{A}$  be fixed such that  $\omega(\mathbf{e}) = 1$ , and let  $N$  denote the kernel of  $\omega$ . Then we have  $\mathbf{A} = K\mathbf{e} \oplus N$ . Let  $\tau : N \rightarrow N$  denote the left multiplication by  $\mathbf{e}$  in  $N$ . In Sections 2 and 3 below, we highlight the

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existence of a vector subspace  $U$  in  $A$  such that  $U = \{x \in N | ex = \frac{1}{2}x\}$ , and we write

$$A = Ke \oplus U \oplus V, \quad (1)$$

where  $V$  is a complementary subspace of  $U$  in  $N$ .

Let  $\mathfrak{B} : A \times A \rightarrow K$  be a bilinear form.  $\mathfrak{B}$  is associative when the identity  $\mathfrak{B}(xy, z) = \mathfrak{B}(x, yz) \forall x, y, z \in A$  holds.  $\mathfrak{B}$  is a symmetric form if  $\mathfrak{B}(x, y) = \mathfrak{B}(y, x) \forall x, y \in A$ . We say that  $\mathfrak{B}$  is a degenerate form if  $x \in A$  exists such that  $\mathfrak{B}(x, y) = 0$  or  $\mathfrak{B}(y, x) = 0 \forall y \in A$ .

Using the decomposition (1), for an associative bilinear form, we have  $\mathfrak{B}(e, n) = \mathfrak{B}(e^2, n) = \mathfrak{B}(e, en) = \mathfrak{B}(en, e) = \mathfrak{B}(n, e^2) = \mathfrak{B}(n, e)$ ,  $n \in N$ , so

$$\mathfrak{B}(e, N) = \mathfrak{B}(N, e). \quad (2)$$

We also have  $\mathfrak{B}(e, u) = \mathfrak{B}(e^2, u) = \mathfrak{B}(e, eu) = \mathfrak{B}(e, \frac{1}{2}u) = \frac{1}{2}\mathfrak{B}(e, u)$ ,  $u \in U$ , so

$$\mathfrak{B}(e, U) = \mathfrak{B}(U, e) = 0. \quad (3)$$

From (1), (2), and (3) we obtain the matrix canonical block decomposition of  $\mathfrak{B}$  asxxx

$$[\mathfrak{B}] = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} Ke & U & V \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{B}(e, e) & 0 & * \\ 0 & * & * \\ * & * & * \end{pmatrix} & \begin{matrix} Ke \\ U \\ V \end{matrix} \end{matrix} \quad (4)$$

We will study (4) to find those  $k$ th Bernstein algebras and  $T$ -algebras of rank 3 which have a nondegenerate associative bilinear form.

## 2. $k$ TH ORDER BERNSTEIN ALGEBRAS

We define the plenary powers of  $x \in A$  by  $x^{[1]} := x$  and  $x^{[i+1]} := x^{[i]}x^{[i]}$  for every integer  $i \geq 1$ . The baric algebra  $(A, \omega)$  is a  $k$ th order Bernstein algebra if any element  $x \in A$  satisfies the identity  $x^{[k+2]} = \omega(x)^{2^k}x^{[k+1]}$ . Naturally  $k$  is the smallest integer such that this identity holds.

It is well known that every  $k$ th order Bernstein algebra has an idempotent  $e$  such that  $\omega(e) = 1$ . The proposition established by Hentzel, Peresi, and Holgate in [3] allows us to write the decomposition  $N = U \oplus V$ , where

$U = \{n \in N | \mathbf{e}n = \frac{1}{2}n\}$  and  $V = \ker \tau^k$  with  $U^2 \subseteq V$ . Let  $W$  be a complementary subspace to  $U^2$  in  $V$ , so that  $U^2 \oplus W = V$ .

For any associative bilinear form  $\mathfrak{B}$  in  $\mathbf{A}$ , we now perform some calculations:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, v) &= \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}^{k+1}, v) = \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}^k, \tau v) = \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}^{k-1}, \tau^2 v) = \dots \\ &= \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, \tau^k v) = \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, 0) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

for every  $v \in V$ . Similarly  $\mathfrak{B}(v, \mathbf{e}) = 0 \ \forall v \in V$ . So  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, V) = \mathfrak{B}(V, \mathbf{e}) = 0$ , and we obtain, by (3),

$$\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, N) = \mathfrak{B}(N, \mathbf{e}) = 0. \quad (5)$$

For  $u \in U$  and  $n \in N$ , we have  $\mathfrak{B}(u, n) = 2\mathfrak{B}(\frac{1}{2}u, n) = 2\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}u, n) = 2\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, un) = 0$  because  $un \in N$  and by (5). Similarly  $\mathfrak{B}(n, u) = 0$ . Based on the identity (3), it follows that

$$\mathfrak{B}(U, \mathbf{A}) = \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{A}, U). \quad (6)$$

For each generator  $u_i u_j$  of  $U^2$  and  $n \in N$ , we have  $\mathfrak{B}(u_i u_j, n) = \mathfrak{B}(u_i, u_j n) = 0$ , and similarly  $\mathfrak{B}(n, u_i u_j) = 0$  by (6). Then

$$\mathfrak{B}(U^2, N) = \mathfrak{B}(N, U^2) = 0. \quad (7)$$

Hence, the matrix canonical block decomposition of  $\mathfrak{B}$  is

$$[\mathfrak{B}] = \begin{array}{ccccc} & K\mathbf{e} & U & U^2 & W \\ \left( \begin{array}{cccc} \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e}) & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & * \end{array} \right) & \begin{array}{c} K\mathbf{e} \\ U \\ U^2 \\ W \end{array} \end{array} \quad (8)$$

This matrix form, valid for every dimension of  $A$ , has the following consequences:

**PROPOSITION 1.** *Any associative bilinear form  $\mathfrak{B}$  on the  $k$ th order Bernstein algebra  $\mathbf{A}$  is totally determined by its action on  $K\mathbf{e} \oplus W$ .*

*Proof.* It is obvious, because if  $x = \alpha\mathbf{e} + u + v_1 + v_2$ ,  $y = \beta\mathbf{e} + u'$

$+ v'_1 + v'_2$ , with  $\alpha, \beta \in K$ ,  $u, u' \in U$ ,  $v_1, v'_1 \in U^2$ ,  $v_2, v'_2 \in W$ , then  $\mathfrak{B}(x, y) = \alpha\beta\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e}) + \mathfrak{B}(v_2, v'_2)$ . ■

**PROPOSITION 2.** *If there exists a nondegenerate associative bilinear form  $\mathfrak{B}$  on the  $k$ th order Bernstein algebra  $\mathbf{A}$ , then  $x^{[k+1]} = \omega(x)^{2^k} \mathbf{e} \ \forall x \in \mathbf{A}$ , and the idempotent  $\mathbf{e}$  is unique.*

*Proof.* If  $\mathfrak{B}$  is nondegenerate,  $U = \{0\}$ . Then the result follows from Theorem 5.10 of C. Mallol [4]. ■

### 3. $T$ -ALGEBRAS OF RANK 3

The  $K$ -baric algebra  $(\mathbf{A}, \omega)$  is a  $T$ -algebra if there exist fixed elements  $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{r-1}$  in  $K$  such that the identity  $x^r + \gamma_1 \omega(x) x^{r-1} + \dots + \gamma_{r-1} \omega(x)^{r-1} x = 0$  holds in  $\mathbf{A}$ . The unique equation of this type with minimum degree is called the rank equation of  $\mathbf{A}$ , and  $r$  is the rank of  $\mathbf{A}$ . When the rank of a  $T$ -algebra  $(\mathbf{A}, \omega)$  is 3, the rank equation is

$$x^3 - (1 + \gamma) \omega(x) x^2 + \gamma \omega(x)^2 x = 0, \quad (9)$$

because the identity  $1 + \gamma_1 + \dots + \gamma_{r-1} = 0$  holds in every  $T$ -algebra. In this work we will only consider  $T$ -algebras of rank 3.

**LEMMA.** *If the  $T$ -algebra satisfies  $\omega(x)[x^2 - \omega(x)x] = 0 \ \forall x \in \mathbf{A}$ , then  $x^2 - \omega(x)x = 0$  holds in  $\mathbf{A}$ .*

*Proof.* Let us observe that  $\forall x \notin \ker \omega$  we have  $x^2 - \omega(x)x = 0$ . Furthermore, if  $x \in \ker \omega$  with  $x^2 - \omega(x)x \neq 0$ , then  $x^2 \neq 0$ . For any  $y \notin \ker \omega$  we have  $\omega(x + \lambda y)[(x + \lambda y)^2 - \omega(x + \lambda y)(x + \lambda y)] = 0 \ \forall \lambda \in K$ ; therefore  $\omega(y)x^2 = 0$ , but  $\omega(y) \neq 0$ , so  $x^2 = 0$ . This fact contradicts the hypothesis. Thus  $x^2 - \omega(x)x = 0 \ \forall x \in \mathbf{A}$ . ■

**PROPOSITION 3.** *Let  $(\mathbf{A}, \omega)$  be a  $T$ -algebra of rank 3. Then  $\mathbf{A}$  is a Jordan algebra if and only if  $\gamma = 0$  or  $\gamma = 1$ .*

*Proof.*  $\Leftarrow$ : If  $\gamma = 0$  or  $\gamma = 1$ , we have  $x^3 - \omega(x)x^2 = 0$  or  $x^3 - 2\omega(x)x^2 + \omega(x)^2 x = 0$ , so  $\mathbf{A}$  is a Jordan algebra; see [5, Theorem 2.3.2].

$\Rightarrow$ : Let  $\mathbf{A}$  be a Jordan algebra. From [5, Theorem 2.3.2], the rank equation is  $x^3 - \omega(x)x^2 = 0$  or  $x^3 - 2\omega(x)x^2 + \omega(x)^2 x = 0$ . First, we suppose that the equation is  $x^3 - \omega(x)x^2 = 0$ . Now the difference between this and the identity (9) is  $\gamma \omega(x)[x^2 - \omega(x)x] = 0$ .

If  $\gamma \neq 0$  then  $\omega(x)[x^2 - \omega(x)x] = 0 \quad \forall x \in A$ , and from the above Lemma we obtain  $x^2 - \omega(x)x = 0$ . This contradicts the rank of  $(\mathbf{A}, \omega)$ , giving  $\gamma = 0$ .

An analogous argument proves the second case, i.e. that when the rank equation is  $x^3 - 2\omega(x)x^2 + \omega(x)^2x = 0$  we have  $\gamma = 1$ . ■

The  $T$ -algebras originated from modeling genetic problems. In this case, the existence of an idempotent element is frequent. For this reason, from now on we will suppose that every  $T$ -algebra  $(\mathbf{A}, \omega)$  has an idempotent element of weight 1. It is well known that for every idempotent element  $\mathbf{e}$  of weight 1 we can write  $\mathbf{A} = K\mathbf{e} \oplus N$ , where  $N = \ker \omega$ . Let  $x = \mathbf{e} + \lambda n$  with  $\lambda \in K$  and  $n \in N$ . Then from (9) we obtain

$$\gamma n + 2\mathbf{e}(\mathbf{e}n) - (1 + 2\gamma)\mathbf{e}n = 0, \quad (10)$$

$$\mathbf{e}n^2 + 2n(\mathbf{e}n) = (1 + \gamma)n^2. \quad (11)$$

Rewriting (10), we deduce  $\mathbf{e}(n - 2\mathbf{e}n) = \gamma(n - 2\mathbf{e}n)$  and  $\mathbf{e}(\mathbf{e}n - \gamma n) = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{e}n - \gamma n)$ . If  $U := \{n \in N | \mathbf{e}n = \frac{1}{2}n\}$  and  $V := \{n \in N | \mathbf{e}n = \gamma n\}$ , we obtain the identities  $\mathbf{e}n - \gamma n \in \ker(\tau - \frac{1}{2}I) = U$  and  $n - 2\mathbf{e}n \in \ker(\tau - \gamma I) = V$ . Then we have

$$(\frac{1}{2} - \gamma)n = (\mathbf{e}n - \gamma n) + \frac{1}{2}(n - 2\mathbf{e}n) \in U + V. \quad (12)$$

If  $\gamma \neq \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $N$  can be written as the direct sum of the two subspaces, and consequently (1) holds. Linearizing the identity (11), we obtain the following relations:

$$U^2 \subseteq V, \quad UV \subseteq U, \quad \text{and} \quad V^2 = 0. \quad (13)$$

We remark that in this case, the conditions for (4) have been satisfied, i.e.  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, U) = \mathfrak{B}(U, \mathbf{e}) = 0$ .

With the notation of the Lemma in [1], we can write  $\lambda_1 = \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\lambda_2 = \gamma \neq \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $N_1 = U$ , and  $N_2 = V$ . So we find  $\mathfrak{B}(U, V) = \mathfrak{B}(V, U) = 0$  for  $i = 1, j = 2$ .

So we conclude that the canonical block decomposition of a matrix corresponding to the direct sum decomposition  $\mathbf{A} = K\mathbf{e} \oplus U \oplus V$ , with  $\beta_1, \beta_2$   $K$ -bases of  $U$  and  $V$  respectively, is

$$[\mathfrak{B}] = \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e}) & 0 & * \\ 0 & * & 0 \\ * & 0 & * \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \mathbf{e} \\ \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \end{matrix} \quad (14)$$

PROPOSITION 4. *If a  $T$ -algebra of rank 3, with an idempotent element, accepts a nondegenerate associative bilinear form, then it is a Jordan algebra.*

*Proof.* Let  $(\mathbf{A}, \omega)$  be a  $T$ -algebra whose rank equation is (9), and let  $\mathfrak{B}$  be an associative bilinear form in  $\mathbf{A}$ .

(i) If  $\gamma = \frac{1}{2}$ , we then have  $n = 4\mathbf{e}n - 4\mathbf{e}(\mathbf{e}n)$ , so for every  $n \in N$  the identity  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, n) = \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, 4\mathbf{e}n) - \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, 4\mathbf{e}(\mathbf{e}n)) = 4[\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e}n) - \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}^2, \mathbf{e}n)] = 0$  holds, i.e.,  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, N) = 0$ . Additionally, for arbitrary  $n_1, n_2 \in N$  we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathfrak{B}(n_1, n_2) &= \mathfrak{B}(4\mathbf{e}n_1 - 4\mathbf{e}(\mathbf{e}n_1), 4\mathbf{e}n_2 - 4\mathbf{e}(\mathbf{e}n_2)) \\ &= 16[\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}n_1, \mathbf{e}n_2) - \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}n_1, \mathbf{e}(\mathbf{e}n_2))] - \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}(\mathbf{e}n_1), \mathbf{e}n_2) \\ &\quad + \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}(\mathbf{e}n_1), \mathbf{e}(\mathbf{e}n_2)) \\ &= 0,\end{aligned}$$

because  $\mathfrak{B}$  is associative and  $N$  is a subalgebra of  $\mathbf{A}$ . Then

$$[\mathfrak{B}] = \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e}) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \mathbf{e} \\ \beta \end{matrix},$$

where  $\beta$  is any  $K$ -base of  $N$ . Therefore, if  $\mathfrak{B}$  is not degenerate, then  $N = \langle 0 \rangle$ , from which  $\mathbf{A} = K\mathbf{e}$  and  $\mathbf{A}$  is a Jordan algebra.

(ii) If  $\gamma \neq \frac{1}{2}$ , we already have seen that the matrix canonical block form of  $\mathfrak{B}$  is given by (14). When  $0 \neq \gamma \neq 1$ , using the Lemma in [1], we find that the matrix form of  $\mathfrak{B}$  is

$$[\mathfrak{B}] = \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e}) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \mathbf{e} \\ \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \end{matrix}$$

That is, the bilinear form  $\mathfrak{B}$  is degenerate except when  $N = 0$ . In this case  $\mathbf{A} = K\mathbf{e}$  and  $\mathbf{A}$  is a Jordan algebra. When  $\gamma = 0$  or  $\gamma = 1$ ,  $\mathbf{A}$  is a Jordan algebra by Proposition 3. ■

PROPOSITION 5. *The associative bilinear form  $\mathfrak{B}$  defined in a  $T$ -algebra of rank 3 with idempotent element is symmetric if and only if  $\mathfrak{B}|_V$  is symmetric.*

*Proof.* When  $\gamma \neq \frac{1}{2}$ , we observe that if  $v \in V$ ,  $u_1, u_2 \in U$ , then the identities  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, v) = \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}^2, v) = \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e}v) = \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}v, \mathbf{e}) = \mathfrak{B}(v, \mathbf{e}^2) = \mathfrak{B}(v, \mathbf{e})$  and  $\mathfrak{B}(u_1, u_2) = 2\mathfrak{B}(\frac{1}{2}u_1, u_2) = 2\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}u_1, u_2) = 2\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, u_1u_2) = 2\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}u_2, u_1) = \mathfrak{B}(u_2, u_1)$  hold. Therefore the symmetry of  $\mathfrak{B}$  only depends on the symmetry of  $\mathfrak{B}|_V$ .

When  $\gamma = \frac{1}{2}$ , we know, by the proof of Proposition 4, that  $\mathfrak{B}(x, y) \neq 0$  only if  $x = y = \mathbf{e}$ . ■

**PROPOSITION 6.** *Let  $(\mathbf{A}, \omega)$  be a  $T$ -algebra with idempotent element  $\mathbf{e}$ ,  $\mathbf{A} \neq K\mathbf{e}$ , and rank equation  $x^3 - \omega(x)x^2 = 0$ . Then the nondegenerate associative bilinear forms in  $\mathbf{A}$  are given by the nondegenerate associative bilinear forms in a complementary vectorial subspace to  $U^2$  in  $V$ .*

*Proof.*  $\mathbf{A}$  is a  $T$ -algebra of rank 3, with  $\gamma = 0$ . Walcher [6] proves that in this case  $\mathbf{A}$  is a Bernstein-Jordan algebra. Since  $\mathbf{A}$  is a Bernstein algebra, we use the results established in [1] to complete the proof. ■

**PROPOSITION 7.** *Let  $(\mathbf{A}, \omega)$  be a  $T$ -algebra with idempotent element  $\mathbf{e}$ ,  $\mathbf{A} \neq K\mathbf{e}$ , and rank equation  $x^3 - 2\omega(x)x^2 + \omega(x)^2x = 0$ . Then any associative bilinear form is totally determined by its values in  $(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e})$  and  $(\mathbf{e}, V)$ .*

*Proof.*  $\mathbf{A}$  is a  $T$ -algebra of rank 3 with  $\gamma = 1$ . Let  $\mathfrak{B}$  be an associative bilinear form in  $\mathbf{A}$ ; then the matrix canonical block form is given by (14). When  $v_1, v_2 \in V$ , we use  $v_1v_2 \in V^2 = 0$  in order to prove  $\mathfrak{B}(v_1, v_2) = 0$ , i.e.  $\mathfrak{B}(V, V) = 0$ . Additionally, if  $u_1, u_2 \in U$ , we have  $\mathfrak{B}(u_1, u_2) = 2\mathfrak{B}(\frac{1}{2}u_1, u_2) = 2\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, u_1u_2)$ ; in other words, the values which  $\mathfrak{B}(U, U)$  takes are determined by the values of  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, V)$ . ■

**PROPOSITION 8.** *Let  $\mathfrak{B}$  be an associative bilinear form defined in a  $T$ -algebra of rank 3. Then  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_1) = \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e})$  for any idempotent elements  $\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e}_1$  in  $\mathbf{A}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $(\mathbf{A}, \omega)$  be a  $T$ -algebra.

(i) Suppose that  $\gamma = \frac{1}{2}$ . Since  $\mathbf{A} = K\mathbf{e} \oplus N$ ,  $N = \ker \omega$ , and  $\mathbf{e}_1$  is of weight 1, we can write  $\mathbf{e}_1 = \mathbf{e} + n_0$ , giving  $n_0 = 2\mathbf{e}n_0 + n_0^2$  and  $\mathfrak{B}(n_0, n_0) = 4\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}n_0, \mathbf{e}n_0) = 4\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, n_0(\mathbf{e}n_0))$ . By (12) we have  $n = 4\mathbf{e}n - 4\mathbf{e}(\mathbf{e}n)$  for every  $n \in N$ . Then  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, n) = 0$ , and consequently  $\mathfrak{B}(n_0, n_0) = 0$ . Now we easily obtain the desired conclusion.

(ii) Let  $\gamma \neq \frac{1}{2}$ . Costa has proved in [2] that in this case  $u \in U$  exists such

that  $\mathbf{e}_1 = \mathbf{e} + u + (1 - 2\gamma)^{-1}u^2$ . A direct calculation gives us

$$\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_1) = \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e}) + \frac{4(1 - \gamma)}{1 - 2\gamma} \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, u^2).$$

There only remains the study of the case  $\gamma \neq 1$ . Since  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, u^2) = \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e}u^2) = \gamma \mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, u^2)$ , then  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathbf{e}, u^2) = 0$ . ■

REMARK. With the above hypothesis, when  $u \in U$  satisfies  $u^2 = 0$ , every associative bilinear form in  $\mathbf{A}$  is degenerate.

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